

California GARDEN

December, 1962

Vol. 53, No. 6

35 cents



"Three Firs"
a contemporary
Japanese engraving
by Keiko Minami

Photograph by Eugene Cooper

San Diego Garden Club Center

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133 I, Chula Vista

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887 Country Club Dr., Chula Vista

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4240 46th, S.D. 15

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Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m.
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Pres.: Mrs. Nelson R. Brown ST 9-1034
510 Fifth, Ramona

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8219 Finlay, La Mesa HO 6-8366

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1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Frank Gillette PA 4-2448
1233 Cypress, Vista

VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB

Second Tuesday, Linda Vista
Recreation Center, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Tom Stalcup BR 8-0668
3857 Antiem, S.D. 11

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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There is understandable confusion as to what the term "garden center" means. My remarks in the last issue concerned a building, but the subject of course is much broader than that. A garden center can include the widest range of interests imaginable, from the most scientific to the most practical, from the ephemeral to the earthy. The hobby gardener can profit from rubbing shoulders with the soil scientist, just as the flower arranger or botanical painter benefits from association with the commercial grower.

When the time arrives for defining the term "garden center" in the form of by-laws, let us strive for a broad shelter under which the most diverse elements can live and work happily, and profit from the sharing.

In the midst of weightier concerns, the niggling problem of naming the center (or organization) will pop up soon. Does it seem unimportant? Or premature to raise the question now? If so, review in your mind the number of organizations which are plagued with names that fail to convey their true functions, or with names so cumbersome or forbidding that they become a liability. Three or four come to my mind instantaneously.

Nor are we working with simple terms. Horticulture, which is one basic here, is an awkward word to combine. Floral, to many people, denotes florists or arrangers. Garden center, to the more serious minded, has a social ring. It will take time and effort to find a perfect solution, or, if it should come to that, the least objectionable one. Let some of the possibilities be rolling around in your mind.

* * *

Through the generosity of Robert H. Calvin, a sizable collection of original botanical drawings by the late Alfred C. Hottes has come into the possession of the Floral Association. Several have already appeared as illustrations in the pages of CALIFORNIA GARDEN; others will follow as opportunities arise. It is hoped that eventually the collection will be catalogued and made available for display and study.

* * *

Plant-minded San Diegans, some of whom have called attention in the

past to a lack of botanical distinction in Balboa Park, can look forward to a gradual upgrading of the plant displays. As an instance, City Park Superintendent Lloyd Lowrey has two canyons in mind for possible future development. One will feature a palm display, the other, ferns.

The first, due west of the Floral Building between the Palisades area and the Alcazar Garden parking lot, already contains a sizable planting of palms, but has become almost totally inaccessible over the years. With the development of new stairways and trails and an augmented (and labeled) palm collection, it should provide a rewarding stroll for the Sunday gardener as well as the serious plantsman.

The double canyon to the south of Cafe del Rey Moro is the site of the proposed fern glen. This area, more open and spacious than the palm-filled canyon, seems to lend itself naturally to the meandering streams and comfortable walking trails that Mr. Lowrey visualizes as adjuncts to a fern collection.

Some clearing work has already been accomplished in both canyons, but there the projects will have to rest until money for further progress can be squeezed into the budget. Both developments would enliven the park recreationally and enrich it botanically. We can hope that San Diego is smart enough to support them.

* * *

Don Wilson asked for it in the last issue: a fertilizer based on potassium sulphate or potassium nitrate instead of the cheaper but salt-depositing potassium chloride. Comes one answer: Country Squire Super-Grow and Super-Bloom, made locally using potassium sulphate.

* * *

During the holidays, plan to visit the Botanical Building in Balboa Park (closed Fridays). The annual display of hundreds of potted poinsettias in bloom will go in about two weeks before Christmas and continue well into January. It's a good season for a stroll through the park as well (you can find the time) if you enjoy children and flowers. There's a surprising number of both.

George La Pointe



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CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

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Commentary

Garden Center: Action Now?

• A Garden Center — soon or late — appears to be a subject of concern to many thinking San Diegans. The following letters, written in response to an invitation to open discussion in the last issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN (see *Chicken or egg? Which came first?* Oct.-Nov. '62), all agree in one important particular: a hunger for action.

The action envisioned by the writers seems to fall into two general categories: organization to achieve garden center status at the present site; and long-range creative planning for the future at a new location. The two approaches are not necessarily incompatible.

An attempt to clarify terms seems to be in order. "Floral Association" means a garden club of approximately 300 individual members. The term also can mean that club plus sixteen affiliated clubs and organizations as listed inside the front cover of this magazine. It is worth our while to keep the difference in mind.

These letters represent a starting point in the sort of exploratory discussions that can lead to agreement on methods and goals. The future belongs to those who are willing to reach for it.—EDITOR.

Organization Proposed

To set up an effective Garden Center [in the Floral Building] requires that each affiliate club of the present group be invited to a meeting by the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, which sponsors the present facility.

This invitation should outline suggested objects of the group and a proposed governing body to be elected by the representatives of each society affiliated.

Some of the objects of the group might be:

- (1) To govern the Garden Center with the Park & Recreation Department.
- (2) To coordinate all Garden Center activities.
- (3) To maintain the Garden Center building and garden.
- (4) To sponsor exhibits in the Garden Center free to the public.

Membership of the governing body should consist of two representatives from each affiliated club. These representatives should be thoroughly familiar with their clubs' operations and should have authority to commit their club by vote at the Garden Center meetings. These persons should be

of the caliber of working Past Presidents or working members; people who will take seriously their responsibility both to the Garden Center and to their club.

The governing body should elect its first president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, then appoint a committee to prepare by-laws, which should include (1) name of the group, (2) objects, (3) membership, including duties and privileges, (4) officers, their duties and how elected, (5) board of directors, duties and how elected or appointed, (6) standing committees, duties and appointments, (7) meetings, dates, etc., open to all persons interested, and (8) how the by-laws may be amended.

Next the group should decide what funds are required to carry out its objectives, and how to obtain them. In this connection, when the governing body takes charge of the Floral Building, there may be some discussion about reimbursing the Floral Association for the pro rata share of its improvements to the building. Equity demands this, but it may be that the Park & Recreation Department might settle this problem with the Floral Association and that the payments could be made over a period of time.

Standing committees should be appointed immediately to carry out the maintenance of the building and garden. Membership on the standing committees should be for varying lengths of time so that each new appointee will serve with at least two others who are familiar with the duties.

Minutes of the governing body should be typed or mimeographed and given each member of the governing body to be read before their individual clubs. Communication both ways is necessary.

Since the public supplies the facilities for the Garden Center, it would be appropriate for each individual club to sponsor an exhibit of their favorite flower, shortly after their annual show, in the Center (Floral Building) free to the public.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

To Wait Is to Lose

In CALIFORNIA GARDEN for Summer 1951, Dorothy Abbott, then President of SDFA, wrote an article on the proposed allocation of the Japanese Pavilion in Balboa Park as a site for a garden center. She discussed the advantages of this beautifully landscaped location: its proximity to the lily pond and lath house and to an excellent botanical library in the Natural History Museum. She also outlined what other cities had done to establish garden centers.

Because local garden clubs were busy with individual concerns, they made no concerted effort to expand Mrs. Abbott's idea into a project with visual dimensions that would inspire all gardeners to work for it. Meanwhile the Children's Zoo was initiated, with real plans to utilize this same space, coupled with a willingness to underwrite the project. Naturally it was given the green light and is now a thriving adjunct to the Zoo, while we lost our trial balloon.

The garden clubbers "laid an egg" then, but not the kind you were about. Thanks to the Bartholomew Plan, we are to have another chance. By now our nesting instinct should be strong enough to produce action. To wait is to lose.

Let's start a promotion called "Push the Garden Center," backed by all groups and individuals willing to work for it. The lily pool and the Botanical Building already

form two sides of a garden center complex that can be extended to the corner occupied by the Food and Beverage building. Plans should be made for facilities to house club meetings, show rooms and an educational center for all aspects of horticulture, in an appropriate landscape, with the eventual addition of a glass house. An organization with the will-to-do is the first essential step.

ALICE M. CLARK
La Jolla

Leadership Needed

Before talk of building a new garden center should be encouraged, there should be full use of the present facilities and a demonstration that such a center could be operated.

Personally, I think a garden center is out of the question unless leadership and organization can be mustered. The idea for a "board of governors," or something similar, is good. First, the present facilities should be removed from the control of the present "landlord" and placed under the control of an independent operating group made up of representatives of all users plus potential users: landscape architects, commercial growers, nurserymen—even associations of suppliers. These representatives should elect their own officers, and should operate the facilities for the greatest benefit of all.

A big step would be the immediate formation of a study committee from interested groups. Present relationships with the city and public employees should be examined, and probably revised to encourage participating groups.

A new garden center is not needed until it can be proved that present facilities can be used and operated to better advantage.

LARRY SISK
San Diego

Time for Reassessment

From time to time in the life of a club, or any organization, a recapitulation and assessment of values are in order, so that new strength, awareness and understanding may be generated.

There is a peculiar utility to a garden organization here in the extreme southwest corner of the nation, where conditions of growth are so different from those of practically every other section. The increase of population over the last several years means that a considerable part of our people have torn loose from whatever gardening roots they had put down somewhere else and are now adapting to the new and strange conditions of growth in a subtropical climate. They need help. Many have found it in their local club and in other media of information and guidance, but others have not.

The Floral Association, a garden club of long standing, has one special qualification . . . its age, its length of service, its part, present and past, in the esthetic quality of growth that has tempered certain phases of the character of the city of San Diego. But gradually, since the war, the whole floral picture has changed.

The Floral Building, rehabilitated and up-dated over the years since 1923 through much hard work and fund-raising, mainly on the part of Association members, has in

Next page please

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CALENDAR

December 1-2

Christmas All Thru the House, presented by La Mesa Garden Club. La Mesa Woman's Club House. Sat. 1-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

December 3

Flower Arrangement Class. Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, instructor. Floral Building, 9:30 a.m.

December 11

Ikebana Workshop. Mrs. Ralph Canter, instructor. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

December 12 & 19

Flower Arrangement Workshop. Mrs. Arthur J. Mitchell, instructor. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

December 20

Christmas Lights Bus Tour, sponsored by San Diego Floral Association. Zoo parking lot, 7 p.m. \$1.50.

January 8 & 22

Ikebana Workshop. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

January 9 & 23

Flower Arrangement Workshop. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

January 28

Flower Arrangement Class. Floral Building, 9:30 a.m.

Commentary . . .

these recent years become a kind of garden center for the city. Many organizations, component parts of the horticultural and gardening field, use the building and facilities. These groups are becoming more closely knit each year, with an increasing crossing of membership as interest and acquaintance grow. The rather impressive list suggests strength which should lead inevitably toward the ultimate aspiration of a truly great and well-organized garden center as envisaged and mapped within the Bartholomew Plan for Balboa Park. In unity and scope there is range here for a garden movement that can equal any to be found in the country. All the essentials exist now.

ROLAND S. HOYT
San Diego

Dream-stuff

Just to think about a Garden Center is an exciting adventure! This is dream-stuff and dreams have no limitations. Now that you have tossed out the first ball, here's hoping that the magazine can become a medium for exchanging ideas, a continuing session of brainstorming with every reader joining in the game.

To me, the real purpose of a Garden Center is to promote the Art of Gardening. It should provide inspiration, stimulation and opportunity for people to acquire knowledge and skills.

First, it should be a place of outstanding beauty, a true work of art which will delight the eye and lift the spirit. Primarily it should be a Garden, with emphasis on the beauty of plants and their arrangement, and with the necessary structures blended into the garden picture. Skillfully designed, each section could serve as a noteworthy demonstration (inspiring visitors to take notes) of a particular kind of situation; for example: a sunny border, a shade garden with winding paths, handsome tub plants by an entry or in a patio, a pool planting, a rock or wall garden. This idea of providing practical "take-home" ideas has been tried by SUNSET MAGAZINE both in Arcadia and in Menlo Park. The latter seems to me more successful because the over-all design is a well integrated one; this is the real challenge in such a plan.

Not enough room? No doubt true as far as that "spot of ink on the master plan" is concerned; but if we forget the limitations in this dream stage, and imagine the

ideal, thinking of all the features we'd like to have, then we can make wiser selections when the limitations become known. Who knows? Perhaps our Park Department would permit the Garden Center to plan and supervise other areas in Balboa Park such as a succulent garden, a rose garden, or a dry hillside for experimenting with drought-resistant plants.

But back to the Center from which all these treasures will spring. True gardeners are active people and their Center should be one of lively activity. Facilities for group meetings, of course, and display areas for exhibits; but should we not plan a real laboratory for learning and experimentation? Work benches, bins for soil mixes, a propagating room, storage capacity for pots, cans, flats, tools, fertilizers and such; a library with study area and space for an herbarium. To the present schedule of classes in flower arrangement could be added classes in Plant Materials, Propagation, Garden Design and Maintenance, etc. Those sponsored by Los Angeles Arboretum suggest good possibilities. If you have ever watched or taken part in a group of blue-jeaned individuals potting up seedlings they have grown themselves, or learning the fine art of grafting, you will know the inner satisfaction and the contagious enthusiasm that such an endeavor generates. Thus are new gardeners born.

The art of creating outdoor beauty with the materials and miracles of nature is a vital resource for the human spirit, but it is becoming a lost art. It is shocking to realize that San Diego, favored as it is, has no community facility to serve as the fountainhead of creative gardening. We can meet that challenge. Let's have free-wheeling ideas, careful planning, and an army of determined, zealous workers.

MRS. LESLIE SCOTT
La Jolla

Hospitality Garden

A Garden Center? Yes, and quickly! I should like to see one that embraces—in a garden—the spirit of our House of Hospitality. Let it be open to the individual with only a window-sill (or less) for a garden, a spot where he can putter and pot to his heart's content, to the curious youngster, or the older yearning for the feel of soil between his fingers. Let it be a garden for parties, a stroll, or for friendly instruction.

THOS. L. CRIST
San Diego



Is
this goof
in your
Garden?

WHAT is a gardener's worst enemy? Crabgrass? Plant diseases? Insect pests? All are formidable foes, but a more insidious blight may be the gardener's own errors. Ten of the commonest garden-variety goofs are listed here. Avoid them and you'll see a more luxuriant growth of grass, flowers and vegetables, and spare yourself needless work and worry.

1. Planting too deep slows germination. Even the largest seeds flourish in only an inch of soil, and small flower or vegetable seeds need merely be covered. When re-seeding bare patches of lawn, loosen only the upper two inches of soil before fertilizing and sowing.

2. Using the wrong fertilizer. The food that makes your grass grow greenest and thickest may produce anemic flowers. Generally, fertilizers containing a high percentage of nitrogen are best for leaf and root crops; flowers and vegetables do better on a formula with a higher proportion of phosphorus. If you want to use the same fertilizer for lawn, flowers, trees, shrubs, and vegetable patch, a formula like 5-10-5 or 6-10-4 may be your best bet.

3. Too much fertilizer—far worse than too little—can kill plants and grass by dehydrating their rootlets. The higher the percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer, the less you have to apply. The rule of thumb suggested by experts: use just enough fertilizer to provide two pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

4. Adding unnecessary elements. Play safe and have a soil analysis made before you start using additives.

5. Overwatering, a major cause of trouble, washes nutrients out of the

soil and helps spread fungi. Let your turf dry almost to the wilting point between waterings. A simple test for lawns: if the imprint of your foot remains on the grass, the lawn needs water. Soak it to a depth of at least 6 inches; light sprinklings are good only for newly seeded lawns.

6. Poor mowing practices. It's fine to mow your lawn, but don't mow it down. A good general rule is to set your mower at $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and use it whenever the grass gets over 2 inches high. If you let the grass grow long and then cut it back severely, it may take weeks to get the injured lawn back into condition. Keep your mower blades sharpened.

7. Inadequate tools. Select tools that are strong, durable and easy to handle. A checklist of basic gardening aids would include a spade or shovel; spading fork; a rake for fining soil and a wooden rake for cleaning up leaves; hoe; cultivator; trowel. In addition, most gardeners need several types of shears: for pruning, shaping hedges, trimming grass, gathering flowers.

To save yourself needless trips to the tool shed or garage, you'll need a garden cart or wheelbarrow. And two pairs of gloves; heavy ones for pruning, light fabric or leather for other chores. Always wear gloves when handling fertilizer or spray chemicals.

8. Not taking proper care of tools. Have a definite storage place for them. Don't stack tools, especially rakes and hoes, against the wall unless you like to be hit on the head with a hoe handle after stepping on its blade. Wash tools after using them; they'll look better and last longer.

9. Waiting too long to get after pests. Up-to-date gardeners fight weeds and insects before there's a full-scale invasion. All-purpose sprays and dusts will control most insects and diseases in flowers and vegetables if applied in time and according to directions.

10. Picking fruit and flowers too late or too soon. Flowers allowed to come to full bloom in the garden rarely last as long in arrangements as those which have been picked just as they are coming into bloom. Most vegetables—peas, green beans, corn are good examples—must be picked before maturity for maximum flavor. But melons and tomatoes should be left to ripen fully on the vine.

Though horticultural science continues to advance, the superstition of the green thumb will undoubtedly survive for many years to come. It is becoming apparent, however, that green thumbs are made, not born.

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California Garden

December, 1962

NATURE'S NOOK . . . Sidelights on the world of plants

In Search Of A California Christmas Tree

BY DONALD BETTS

MANKIND, going back to the Stone Age and earlier, has always had a special feeling for trees. This feeling springs, I believe, from two sources, man's sense of beauty and his need for security.

His sense of beauty, causing him to look upward, has raised him on his hind feet and carried him far. It is altogether possible, however, that his first hesitant upward glances were directed not toward the beauty of mighty trees but toward the shelter they afforded. For shelter him they surely did in those dim and terrible days.

As time went on and mankind progressed from the primitive, trees became useful to him in many other ways, as fuel for cooking and to keep him warm, as material to build his home, in many cases as food itself, in the form of fruits and nuts, and sometimes even as clothing. Food, clothing, shelter. Is it any wonder then that man came to regard the tree as his best friend? Even the sun, which he was inclined to turn to, often let him down. But trees were always there. Furthermore, he could look at them and touch them and get to know them intimately, which he never could do with the sun. So he grew to rely on them: they gave him something to cling to in a wild and meaningless world.

It was therefore a simple and natural development for man to come to worship trees, to make a tree the re-

siding place of the spirit of his god. For the tree was the center of his world, the safe quiet place in the storm, the remembrance of his past, the servant of his present, the hope of his future. It was also a thing of beauty which carried his eyes upward toward the sky and the stars and those vast spaces of heaven which caught his imagination and raised him so far above the other creatures of his world.

Bearing all this in mind, we can see how wise and natural it was for the early fathers of the Christian church to blend the story of Jesus, the saviour of mankind, with the ancient legends surrounding mankind's faith in trees, so that in due course there was born of this union that beautiful being, the Christmas tree.

Down through the years almost everything has been used at one time or another as a Christmas tree. Palms and cacti, metal, plastic, tinfoil, snow and ice, driftwood and sea shells, and who knows what, have been pressed into incongruous service by lonely souls in distant corners of the earth wishing to celebrate Christmas. But undoubtedly the first choice for this purpose has always settled on one or another of those trees belonging to the group known as conifers, such as the fir, the spruce, the hemlock and the pine. Of these, spruce and fir certainly lead in the matter of symmetry and so are often held up as the ideal. But the pine, because of its pictur-

esqueness, makes a more interesting Christmas tree. Furthermore, its usefulness to mankind can hardly be overestimated.

Many species of pine make magnificent timber trees. The resin of some furnishes turpentine, tar and pitch. Pine wool is made from the needles of others. Essential oils from the young shoots is distilled to be used medicinally. And the seeds of the nut pines are used for food and flavors.

Considering its extreme usefulness, its strikingly picturesque qualities, its hardihood and self-reliance, there is much to be said in favor of placing this genus of conifer first on the list of Christmas trees ahead of its more beautiful but more conventional cousins. Of course there are pines and pines, in fact, over six hundred species and varieties, ranging from the arctic to the equator. In almost every cooler or higher part of the world there is at least one species well suited to the particular area. The question then naturally arises, in our coastal areas of Southern California, which is the most suitable pine to serve as our Christmas tree? In my opinion, the choice of the species is the Monterey pine, *Pinus radiata*.

This beautiful tree, native in San Mateo and Monterey counties and other more northern regions in the state, has been a great reforestation tree around the San Francisco Bay area. But it does perfectly well in our region, too. It makes a very hand-

some tree, anywhere from 40 to 100 feet tall, with strikingly dark green foliage and stout spreading branches, compact but often irregular and always interesting in form. It has a deep taproot, takes well to poor soils of a sandy or gravelly nature, is self-reliant and not at all fussy about food. In fact, like most pines, it gets along better without heavy feeding. And another point in its favor for San Diego: it is one of the best pines to plant against the sea.

I live in Encinitas, about a quarter of a mile from the ocean, down an undedicated road which ends abruptly above a wide lagoon. Our humpy dirt road is lined with Monterey pines which were planted there thirty to forty years ago. The road is wide and the pines are massive, spreading things with deep-fissured dark brown bark covering the thick trunks and heavy limbs. When the sun shines, the soft carpet of brown needles, spread everywhere over the ground, glows with an animal warmth. When there is mist or rain, the wide fret-work of branches overhead is hung with veils of raindrops. Many birds make their homes high up in these dark old trees, singing and chattering from morning till night and scattering their gray feathers over the brown blanket of needles below. Our children love to climb and snuggle into the crotches of trunks and branches; to gather the fat cones after they have fallen and paint them with bright colors and hang them around the house.

In heavy weather these trees stand between us and the blast from the sea. In the heat of summer they spread coolness from their branches. At all times they fill the air with a wholesome fragrance.

They whisper and sigh and sing in the breeze and the wind, mysterious words whose meaning we can sense but cannot understand. And on cold December nights, the moon shines softly through the dark branches and dapples the ground with shimmering silver. Looking upward we see the clusters of glistening needles standing stark against the sky. Distant stars seem to twinkle at the ends of the branches. The big trees are starred with light. They stand still and hushed, listening, as if awaiting at this Christmas season some good thing, a sign, a voice, a star out of the East, a fresh vision, a new hope for the world.

They are indeed our Christmas trees.



BY HELEN D. CARSWELL

I "Discover" Eucalyptus

A Review of the past leads to hope for the future

EUCALYPTUS trees, tall and verdant, lacy yet staunch, fragrant in the rains or fogs of night, seem as much a part of the California landscape as the Pacific Ocean or the Sierras. Yet they have been in this Golden State not much over a hundred years. Tracing their story—how they were brought here, the people who worked with them, the ranchers, gardeners and developers and their experiments with hundreds of varieties—would make an absorbing life-time hobby. The articles and legends that keep popping up in horticultural literature and travel publications lead the searcher into a fascinating phase of California history.

My interest in eucalyptus started in the '20s. In those days we heard Santa Monicans lamenting the destruction of a row at the side of the Miramar Hotel to make room for the widening and paving of Wilshire Boulevard. Later I watched the removal of a grove on the Wolfskill Ranch in West Los Angeles. Seeing that many were saved—boxed with care and then moved away—brought home the idea that there must be different kinds and that some were more desirable than others.

This was in the years before collecting horticultural literature became a primary interest in my life. How I would have devoured the works of Charles Francis Saunders, if I had known about them then, or the "Journal of the California Horticultural Society," if it had existed prior to 1940. Throughout the years since the '20s it has been fun collecting items about this plant that has been called "the world's most famous tree."

Although they went into ecstasies over oak groves, little wild walnuts, sycamores, the majestic redwoods,

"the Roses of Castille," and all the shrubs and vines of early California, the explorers, pathfinders, and plant collectors make no mention of eucalyptus. It is reasonable to assume there were none at that time. Professor Thomas Nuttall of Harvard, who in 1836 collected plants along the coast of California and discovered many that were previously unknown, found no eucalyptus. (Remember? He returned to Boston on the *Alert* with Richard Henry Dana, author of *Two Years Before the Mast*.) A good Yankee like Nuttall, so alert to anything new and interesting, would have been delighted to bring back the story of a tree so different from any in his native New England.

The earliest records of eucalyptus in California have been traced to the Golden Gate Nursery of San Francisco, one of the most famous nurseries in the history of the state. Professor H. M. Butterfield of Berkeley reports in the "Journal of the California Hor-

ticultural Society" that the notes with the master copy of the 1858-9 catalog, which by chance was preserved, indicate that the owner, William C. Walker, imported the seeds in about 1856 from Sydney, Australia. He offered for sale that season, at \$10 each, three varieties of eucalyptus, *E. angustifolia*, *E. resinifera*, and *E. argentea*. The following year he added *E. globulus*, the blue gum, so called for the shape of the seed pods, with little tops that pop off when the seeds mature.

At first eucalyptus was only a landscape novelty for the newly rich who were developing fine estates with gold-rush money. But its jack-in-the-beanstalk growth, its grace and beauty, and the fact that it would grow and survive in places where nothing else would, awakened ranchers to its great possibilities and utility. Elwood Cooper of Santa Barbara was one of the land owners who planted eucalyptus on his large holdings. Helen Hunt Jackson in *California and the Missions* speaks of 150,000 eucalyptus trees, representing 24 varieties, on this ranch, surrounding fields of wheat and barley, groves of walnuts, almonds, olives, and domestic fruits, forming high dark walls on either side of the roads. And she added "... the eucalyptus belts have been planted in every instance solely with a view to utility, either as wind-breaks ... or to make use of gorge sides too steep for other cultivation."

By the turn of the century eucalyptus was really at home in California, but the great planting boom, when the tree was set out by the thousands, probably took place between 1907 and 1911. It was in this era that San Diego's Mr. Eucalyptus, Max Watson, took a vacation job on a back-country ranch where his employer was growing eucalyptus from seed. The tree aroused his interest, he started a nursery, planted eucalyptus by the thousands, and has retained a keen interest in them to this day. Probably some of his trees are



Helen D. Carswell, rosarian, iris specialist, lecturer, writer, bibliophile and traveler, keeps house and garden in Sepulveda, but calls San Diego her second home.



Eucalyptus trees on Miramar Mesa

Richard Dixon

still in existence in Balboa Park.

In my book browsing, I recently found a copy of Theodore Payne's 1916 catalog. His nursery, then located on South Main Street in Los Angeles, was doing a world-wide business in seeds, including eucalyptus. On four pages of this 1916 issue, he listed varieties of all sorts, with suggestions for their use and culture.

It was through browsing too that I learned the story of the trees at Rancho Santa Fe, how the railroad planted them by the thousands to furnish a supply of timber for railroad ties. Of the two varieties, *E. globulus* and *E. camaldulensis*, the former was useless because the cut wood went to mush in a year or so, and the latter because it was so hard that it was impossible to drive a spike into it.

In the past quarter-century I have had the experience of growing seven varieties of eucalyptus. *E. citriodora* was my first choice, but after losing three, one year after another, it seemed that it was not for the San Fernando Valley, and to date I know of none here. It is gone with the first nip of frost, along with the canna leaves and the tomatoes.

One of my most satisfying experiences was raising a flat of *E. rostrata*, selected because it would stand heat and frost, and bringing 94 to maturity. In the flat they looked so tiny and harmless. Transplanted into coffee cans of rich soil, many grew to 2 and 3 feet in a short time. Each week-end we selected the largest to transplant, over in the valley, along the bank of a sandy wash. With one heavy watering

a week they were over my head the first season. In a short time they made enough shade to cut off the afternoon glare of the sun, and made it possible to grow things in the sandy loam where they had only withered in the heat before. Over a period of years these eucalyptus provided all the wood we needed for the fireplace and wood heater, and best of all, they held the sandy bank along the "wash." We loved to stroll along the path this row made, especially after a rain, when the seed pods had popped open and perfumed the garden. Some of these seeds, planted in a flat, grew well too, but the seedlings, having many different types of pods, were not true to type.

In time my *rostratas* were much too big. They scattered volunteers all over the garden and we had to be digging them out constantly to keep them from taking over the place. When the original trees finally succumbed to the subdivider, it took his heavy equipment many days to remove them, and no doubt cost him a pretty penny. This experience, while delightful, could be summed up by saying that *E. rostrata* is not for garden use, but for wide open spaces. Even there it would have to be controlled by topping and thinning.

RECENT browsing has rewarded me with a collection of "The Santa Barbara Garden." This magazine, published from 1925 to 1942, contains absorbing information on new introductions and outstanding specimens in the Santa Barbara area. There are many references to eucalyptus, but all tell of a type more suitable for the smaller garden, with more colorful bloom. This, a subject for further study, will be reported later.

California continues to change. New plants come in every year, old landmarks are uprooted and discarded. Developments take over some of the best soils of the land and cover it with houses, concrete and blacktop. Gardeners are encouraged to settle for potted and container-grown plants. Subdividers push out farther into desert areas.

Current literature constantly reiterates the warning, "Man cannot live without plants." Who knows? Perhaps some new strain of eucalyptus, one which will survive in higher altitudes, stand more heat and frost, combine beauty and color with a more moderate habit of growth, is destined to start another boom. There is still an opportunity for such a tree in the California desert.

Some Thoughts On Pruning Roses

BY DON WILSON

IT is assumed that you have read and understood a standard treatise on rose pruning, such as "Doc" Thompson's or the Sunset handbook, both of which are excellent. What I have to say is not intended to contradict either authority, but rather to use, in some cases, these principles to obtain specific results.

Hybrid Teas

Generally speaking, this class gives no particular problem. Some hybrid teas, however, tend to grow with an ungainly sprawling habit. Control of crowding of neighbors can be obtained by cutting to an inside eye, using a little more slanting cut than usual in the attempt to encourage growth in a more vertical direction. Golden Dawn is a good example of this sprawling habit, as to a lesser degree are such varieties as Duet, Fred Howard, Oriental Charm, Garden Party and Peace. With all such vigorous varieties it is a good idea to keep them under control through the growing season by thinning occasionally for ventilation. You will get fewer blooms, but the plant will be healthier for it.

The leggy, tall growing hybrid tea is another sort of problem. These can be cut to an outside eye to encourage spreading, but it is best to cut long stems as you cut blooms, so that the canes, after cutting, are kept under about 4 feet in height. If this were not done, Fort Vancouver, Thanksgiving, Angel Wings, Coronado and several others would produce blooms on top of 8 or 9 foot canes. Here again, you trade flower production for control of the growing habit.

Fortunately, the bulk of hybrid teas are tractable, easily grown and controlled, with no special problems. No matter how you prune, the results will be satisfactory. There is another group, however, which is seldom mentioned. These are the bushes which resent even

moderate pruning and should only be shaped, thinned and defoliated. In my experience, such plants as Comtesse Vandal, Girona, Condesa de Sastago, Picture, The Doctor, Summertime, Chief Seattle, Eden Rose, Etoile de Hollande, Sam McGredy and Shot Silk are included. Which of your plants belong to this group depends to a degree on your soil and cultural practices.

Grandifloras

Varieties within this type vary considerably in spite of the common belief that they are all extremely vigorous, huge plants. Compare Pink Parfait with Queen Elizabeth or El Capitan, for example, the former being a relatively small, full bush while the latter two are vigorous and 9-10 feet tall. Pink Parfait might even be called a floribunda. King's Ransom, originally introduced as a grandiflora, was reclassified as a hybrid tea, largely because of growth habit. Consequently, pruning practices vary between grandiflora varieties depending upon whether you want to discourage the tremendous growth of a Queen Elizabeth or encourage the floribunda appearance of one like Pink Parfait. Thin out more canes in the former and cut lower; leave more canes with moderate cutting in the latter.

Floribundas

In general, the desire with this type is to maintain a small, full, compact bush. This requires light pruning, leaving more canes than with the others. However, occasionally one comes across a rambunctious floribunda, such as Little Darling or the new Miracle, which grows like a weed. One can go along with this habit and stake them up as the growing season progresses, or keep them cut back within bounds. Little Darling in particular is a rather spare bloomer if allowed to grow at will, but if cut back and denied fertilizer, it will do a little better in this respect. A few varieties like Oberon will sprawl along the ground; if the plant tends to interfere with other bushes in the bed, it has to be cut

back even though it is a very low bush. In general, however, floribundas require less attention than other types. It is too bad so few of them are fragrant.

Climbers

Practically all of the climbing varieties grown today are sports of hybrid teas or floribundas, and pruning principles are essentially the same. The long canes can be kept shortened so that the growth habit can be more like a pillar, tied around a stake. This is convenient for those of us who like to have a number of these climbing hybrid teas in the background, planted closer together than 6-10 feet as recommended. In spite of rules in manuals, blooms are produced on new wood, just as on the hybrid tea. This is not true of the other types of climbers, such as the large- and small-flowered climbers, the ramblers and the climbing polyanthas. These tend to bloom on older wood, and this should be kept in mind when pruning.

I keep my climbers pruned rather severely because they are planted close together and must of necessity be kept within bounds. I leave only two to four canes, cutting out the older canes completely each spring. Ramblers, if you have any, should be thinned out after the spring blooming period and not at the same time as the hybrid teas or their climbing sports. About the only varieties of this type commonly seen these days are Mermaid, Cecile Brunner, New Dawn, J. H. Nicholas and Paul's Scarlet.

In all of these types, as buds start to grow, there frequently will be two or three sprouts from the same eye location. When this occurs, it is good practice to rub off, with your thumb or finger, all except the most promising sprout. Also, if a bud from an eye is pointing in an undesirable direction, it, too, can be rubbed off before it gets going. This is the easiest way to keep your bush or climber growing as you would wish and is easy to do as you work through your garden doing your regular disbudding chores.

Don Wilson, Ph.D., is Director of Research at Naval Electronics Institute, Point Loma. He lives and gardens in La Jolla.

BY MATILDA ROGERS

A BOWL OF FRUIT



Gottschö-Schleisner

Time-Saver for the Holidays

AT CHRISTMAS, or any other busy time, a fruit (or fruit and vegetable) arrangement can serve as a time-saver.

You will certainly want to "deck the halls" with colorful holiday arrangements—holly, evergreens, mistletoe, a wreath, a Christmas tree with glitter, and fresh flower arrangements in the living room, at least. For your table, the poinsettias from your garden will do nicely. For the buffet in the dining room, a fruit arrangement can come to your rescue.

Just treat fruit and vegetables as "forms." As in flower arrangement, you will want to combine both the round and the spikes. Start with ba-

nanas or a pineapple for your spike or high point.

Then, just as you vary shapes, you also want color contrasts—yellow of bananas, green of a pepper, red of a tomato, etc. When you have two light-colored things close together, it is well to separate them with a dark green or bronze galax leaf or any other dark leaf. Pattern contrasts, such as grapes between a smooth tomato and a banana, are equally important.

In addition to contrasts in shape, color and pattern, you need balance in a good design. Here we balanced the tall banana at the left with the hanging grapes on the right in a sort of Hogarth curve line design.

One important caution: Never stick fruit or vegetables onto a pin-type flower holder; neither should you stick them with toothpicks or pins. Puncturing the fruit will cause it to decay, something you want to avoid since it should remain edible.

It is best to use modeling clay to

anchor any heavy piece in the exact spot you want it. Incidentally, be sure the clay has a soft, oily consistency so it will hold. Later on, the fruit can be peeled and eaten without having been pierced for the sake of design.

Proportion is another important item. Buffets are usually 60 inches long and only 20 inches wide. You cannot start out with a large arrangement; however, a bowl alone would be too small for the area. The solution, then, is to use a glass or copper tray as background. Such an object not only enlarges but enhances your composition. The glass plate in the arrangement shown above has a roundish design which repeats the form of the grapes.

By the way, such an arrangement is not used centered, since it is not symmetrical. An off-center design looks best on the left side, facing the center.

Anyone can duplicate this fruit arrangement or create something similar in a few minutes. The advantage is that it will keep fresh for days.

Matilda Rogers, author and teacher, lives in Santa Monica. Among her books are *Flower Arrangements Anyone Can Do Anywhere*, *The First Book of Cotton*, and *A First Book of Tree Identification*.

One Man's Lath House

On the sands of Mission Beach—rare plants and famous names get together

BY CHAUNCY I. JERABEK

OLD timers of San Diego County will remember that 1916 was the rainy year when all the bridges were washed out in Mission Valley. The only entrance to downtown San Diego from the north was by boat or over the bridge between Mission Beach and Ocean Beach.

At that time I was postmaster as well as head gardener at the Miramar Ranch of the late publisher, E. W. Scripps. That winter, with rail service cut off by the flood, we had to drive into San Diego two or three times a week to pick up the mail. We crossed the mesa, through what is now the U.S. Naval Air Station at Miramar, wound down the old Biological Grade and drove through La Jolla, Bird Rock, and Pacific Beach. Thus we arrived at Mission Beach, a narrow sand-spit with a grid of streets, but with only an occasional building. As we looked across the hummocks of shifting sand, we thought that either the realtors were crazy or had exceptional vision. Today, I am sure it was the latter.

Among the early residents of that sandy area, though not quite back to the time of the 1916 flood, were Mr. and Mrs. Archie Clay. When they settled into their home at 834 Isthmus Court in 1928, they could sit on their porch and enjoy the view for miles in all directions. Today their home is sandwiched in between other dwellings.

The Clays have developed a remarkable garden at their Mission Beach home in spite of the obvious difficulties of salt air and sandy soil. They have also reared a remarkable son. I will try to introduce you to both.

Although Mr. Clay calls himself an amateur, one look at his garden will convince you that he is not only a professional but a perfectionist. The place from front to rear is immaculate and all of the plants are exceptionally well grown.

Inside a white picket fence, a comfortable one-story house stands behind two sturdy twisted junipers (*Juniperus torulosa*) and a verdant bermuda-grass lawn. The main garden covers the west portion of the lot. At the front is an attractive plot of roses and a flower bed and two borders. Last August these borders were filled with

dahlia blossoms of many hues, some of them larger than dinner plates. Directly to the rear is another crew-cut lawn, and at the corners, like sentinels, four single-trunk *Yucca elephantipes*. A comfortable lawn swing invites you to tarry and enjoy the flowers.



Miss K. O. Sessions

To the rear is a lath house built to stand for generations. The small tree to the right of the entrance is of special note: *Ficus petiolaris* has a curious, swollen trunk at the soil line. Its heart-shaped, leathery leaves, pointed at the tip, are blue-green in color, with showy red veins and petioles.

Among the many exotic plants inside, those of the Bromeliaceae or Pineapple family were of special interest to me. An outstanding one is *Acanthostachys strobilacea*, an epiphytic plant with reed-like stems. From a

hanging basket, the orange bracts and small red-and-yellow flowers light up the corner. Another rare and attractive bromeliad is *Aechmea mariae-reginae*. It has a rosette of broad, gray-green, leathery leaves, and drooping, delicate pink bracts, surmounted by a cylindrical head of violet flowers, followed by red-tipped berries.

Four hanging baskets containing succulents attracted my eye particularly. Two were of the common *Sedum morganianum*, Burro Tail. The other two contained a hybrid of the same variety with a much coarser foliage, which I found more fascinating.

Other plants included in the Clay collection are anthuriums, ferns, begonias and other tropical and semi-tropical specimens. *Anthurium podophyllum* was particularly different. It has large, digitately lobed leaves, with stiff, finger-like segments on long stalks from a short trunk. At first glance one might take it for a variety of philodendron.

Growing through the roof at the rear of the lath house is probably the largest example of *Meryta sinclairi*, the Puka, in all of San Diego. This rare tree from New Zealand has handsome, extra-large glossy leaves, up to 20 inches long and 10 inches across, with wavy margins and prominent veins. The erect panicles of flowers are greenish-yellow.

As I was leaving, Mr. Clay showed me a seed of the Double Coconut Palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*). Such seeds are so rare that many colleges and museums cannot display one. Previously I had seen them only in pictures. According to what I have read there are only three small specimens of this palm in the Continental United States. One is in the New York Botanical Gardens, and the other two in a private estate near Miami, Florida.

This palm, found native only on Seychelles Island in the Indian Ocean, is known there as Coco de Mer or Sea Palm. It is a slow-growing fan palm with a stem or trunk up to 100 feet tall and a foot in diameter. The deep green, glossy leaves, up to 20 or more feet long and 6 feet wide, are thick and heavy, on stalks or petioles up to 15 feet long. This is a giant among palms.

In spite of the outstanding foliage, it is the seed which makes this tree so remarkable: it is the largest and heaviest in the whole vegetable kingdom. This enormous fruit, weighing up to 50 pounds, consists of a fibrous husk containing from one to three 2-lobed nuts. The fruits hang in clusters on the tree, and when fully ripe, turn grayish-black. Being so large, they take ten years to reach maturity, and if you should plant one, it would take two years to germinate. Normally the tree does not flower under thirty years of age.

Long before the actual trees were discovered on Seychelles Island, seeds had been found floating in the vicinity of the Maldivice Islands in the Indian Ocean. Thus the plant received its specific name, which was never changed even though it was found later to be in error. The seeds became the subject of many legends and superstitions, and large sums of money were paid for them. As far back as 1759, they sold for as much as £400 sterling (\$2000). Today, though not worth anywhere near that sum, they are still a rare curiosity.

THE double coconut seed which Mr. Clay showed me was a gift from David Fairchild, the great plant explorer, to the Clay's son, Horace. You may wonder why Fairchild, on one of his local visits to Miss K. O. Sessions, should have given such a valuable present to a young boy. I can only conjecture that the famous explorer saw something of himself in the young Horace Clay.

Miss Sessions, who had been in the nursery business in San Diego since the 1880's, was the only woman in the world ever to be awarded the coveted Meyer Medal of the Council of the



Double coconut: Largest and heaviest seed in the vegetable kingdom.



Entering the Clay lath house: *Ficus petiolaris* at right of doorway, large Puka tree (*Meryta sinclairi*) growing through the roof at rear.

American Genetic Association at Washington, D. C. The medal was given for her distinguished service in new plant introductions and for other great work with plants, but equally important was her lifelong effort to transmit her enthusiasm for plants to others.

Horace Clay, who had developed an interest in horticulture while living at home and working with his plant-minded father, came under her influence at an early age. On weekends and during school vacations, he helped out at her Pacific Beach nursery. Later, as auto driver and companion, he went along with her whenever she lectured to garden clubs. Sitting in the front row, he quietly prompted her when her memory failed. During her last illness, Horace visited her in the hospital daily.

After his graduation from high school in La Jolla, Horace attended the University of California at Los Angeles. During his spare time he worked for Evans & Reeves, the rare plant nursery in Brentwood. There he not only earned extra money but gained

valuable experience in his chosen field. In 1950 he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Hawaii, and, after two years of additional study, a Master of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts. Later, he took his Ph. D. degree at the University of Chicago.

During a year with the United Fruit Company in Tegucigalpa, he traveled throughout Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Then he moved to Honolulu, where ultimately he became Associate Specialist in Horticulture at the University of Hawaii College of Agriculture. About 1958 he was borrowed by the United States Navy for scientific exploration in the South Pacific, perhaps visiting some of the same islands as David Fairchild had before him.

Now, back in Hawaii, Horace Clay is writing his own book on tropical plants, to share with the world his legacy from his father, a self-styled amateur, and from David Fairchild and Miss Sessions, two giants among professional plantmen. A good garden can yield unexpected rewards.

GROUND COVERS

Aggregates — For a Change

BY FOSTER PARRENT

TIME was that when one spoke of ground covers he meant lawn or some type of vine, but in this jet age we mean those plus a wide range of loose aggregates. Proper use of the many materials now at our command gives us the opportunity to really landscape the ground around our houses.

Although there still are many situations where one prefers to use grass or other plant-type ground covers, the crushed and natural aggregates offer a pleasant change and often do a better job. They can be used in many interesting themes, but this writer believes that they perform best as natural substitutes.

Brown or black cinders, spread over the planting bed areas, can represent brown or black soil. The walking areas can be defined with crushed rock. A wide variety of interesting effects can be had in this way, the more natural and balanced, the more pleasing to the eye.

Before the aggregates are put down, the planting areas are usually covered with plastic film.* Shrubs and trees are planted through holes in the plastic.

Shaping the ground to allow for water run-off usually leaves you with extra soil. By mounding up the excess you can create an interesting topography. Covered with plastic, and with trees and shrubs integrated with boulders or large chunks of rock, the mounded areas give the feeling of a natural landscape. The drainage depressions can be covered with plastic as well, and topped with crushed rock, Lakeside semi-natural 1/2-inch size or 3/8-inch Blue-Gray Mission Gorge, for instance, to form paths which give the feeling of stream beds (which is just

*Tar-paper, sometimes used for this purpose, is a poor investment. It tears easily and rots out in a few years.

Foster Parrent owns and operates Grand Avenue Nursery in Pacific Beach.



Boulders and pines make a backdrop for a clean sweep of gravel at Luana Apartments in Pacific Beach. Planting screens carports.

what they are during heavy rains).

The plastic will hold the soil in place and keep moisture in or out. You water through the holes where you planted the plants, but only about once a month after the first summer. Your weed problem is practically over and done with. Just watch the spaces along sidewalks, drives, and other edges, and either poison or pull any weeds com-

ing past the plastic at these points.

One of the drawbacks of the loose aggregate type of landscape is that children can make something of a mess by throwing it around or kicking, running, or riding bikes through it. Much can be done to avoid this problem by proper boulder and plant placement.

Now for the slope areas. If you want a really new effect that does a good job of holding a slope or bank, try the same approach. Shape the soil smooth or dipped in any fashion you may wish, and cover it with plastic. Use boards, chunks of rock or anything heavy to hold the plastic in place temporarily. Cut holes in the plastic where plants are to be placed.

Dig out the junk dirt from the planting holes and push and pack it as a saucer on the downhill side. If soil is good, or if plants are of the rugged variety, you can dig the holes just big enough for the plant ball, but if your choice of plants has more sophisticated soil requirements, dig the holes large enough to hold the plant plus a generous amount of good soil.

After planting is completed, you are ready to put chunks of rock in place. Work from the bottom of the slope upward, allowing enough space between rocks for plant stems, and bridging and keying the rocks together. Leave as much area between the rock chunks as you can, and fill these spaces with crushed cinders, crushed brick, or aggregate of your choice. The color contrast will be very pleasing.

It's work, but it's pretty, and very effective for erosion control.



Steep slopes are the rule in Pacifica. Junipers, succulents combine attractively with gray rocks and cinders to hold the front

bank at the R. E. Schonfeld home, 4926 San Joaquin Drive. Design and installation by Grand Avenue Nursery.

Plants to Save Your Soil

By Aniela Esswein

ABANK is a challenge. Unplanted, that chunk of raw sloping earth may wind up in your living room or out in the street, depending on your position on top or bottom. Either way, it challenges your backbone, your pocketbook, the water pressure, your neighbor, and in our enlightened era of landscaping, your ingenuity in coming up with something satisfying, different, and relatively care-free.

A point to bear in mind in designing a bank treatment is that plants must be closer together than on the level so that soil-holding is accomplished faster. Also remember that combinations of ground covers, or mixtures of ground covers, trees and shrubs, can produce effects that a single cover plant can never achieve.

In a frost-free area, if color is desired, a combination of trailing lavender lantana (*Lantana sellowiana*) and rose or light pink ivy geranium (*Pelargonium peltatum*) is charming. Both take full sun and a minimum of water. In an area of frost, let Algerian ivy predominate and add spot plantings of the lantana and ivy geranium. The latter two will die back when frost hits and then reappear in the spring. The deep green of the ivy makes a striking background for the flowers.

If you particularly enjoy a lush, green look, yet would like something other than the ivies (Algerian, English, Hahn's), consider Point Reyes Ceanothus (*Ceanothus gloriosus*). Its beauty lies in the intense green mat of shiny, rounded leaves, with the striking blue flowers of late spring as an extra dividend. It can be kept quite flat by cutting back only upright growth.

This ceanothus does not need too much water. We grow it on a rather sandy bank and put a soaker on it about once a week or every 10 days; it is doing beautifully. We planted a bank of *Rosmarinus foresteri* and *Baccharis pilularis* at the same time, and the ceanothus covered its bank com-

pletely while the other two have spread about a foot.

Since *Baccharis pilularis* has been mentioned, let me point out its virtues. A prostrate native shrub with a spread of 2 to 10 feet, it has a strong and deep root system. It does well with very little water, but will produce a more attractive plant if given an occasional deep soaking. It combines well with marguerites or *Convolvulus cneorum*, which also do with little water. *Baccharis* is used extensively in the western parking lots at Mission Valley Center.

Rosmarinus foresteri is another good cover for a dry bank. In comparison with the others mentioned, it covers rather slowly, but its soil-holding properties and attractive growth habit make it a good choice. Rosemary produces a light blue flower in late summer. The leaves of this variety may be used for seasoning.

If you are partial to a lacy look, *Asparagus sprengeri* would be an excellent choice. Its fresh, celery-green foliage adds a light, bright contrast to any yard. A good, deep watering will hold it for quite a period. *A. sprengeri* is particularly good where you want a plant to cover a bank and then hang over a wall. It would be attractive in combination with dark-foliaged foundation shrubs. It is used as a mound cover in the Mission Valley Center landscaping.

How about a cascade of gray and yellow, gray and white, or even gray and bronze? The "new" trailing gazanias (*Gazania uniflora leucoleana*) are for you then. With frequent watering these lush and vibrant plants will run rampant, but are easily trimmed back.

On a large sloping dry area, the trailing gazania would still be good, but it does not spread as fast with reduced watering, since it cannot be classed as a drought-resistant plant. Trim it back once a year to keep the growth fresh and young looking. The gray foliage and bright flowers (which open during the day and close in dull weather and at night) provide wonderful color for a drab area.

The other members of the gazania

family also provide a colorful solid bank cover. *Gazania rigens* (orange flower) and *G. pavonia* (yellow flower) grow in spreading clumps which eventually form a solid mass, in contrast to the running "fingers" of the trailing gazania? They take full sun and are not too fussy about water.

For another gray with a more delicate look try *Lotus bertheloti*. It is like a fluff of gray lace, with small red flowers in midsummer. Use it in full sun or part shade, but only in areas with a mild winter. It sometimes attracts mealy bug and/or aphids, but is worth a little spraying. One plant will quickly cover a 3-foot area.

Want to keep the kids off the bank? Try one of the low-growing Natal plums, *Carissa grandiflora horizontalis*, *C. grandiflora* 'Green Carpet' or *C. grandiflora tuttlei*. These varieties form a mat of shiny, deep green leaves, and like other members of the *Carissa* family, have a thorn or two. You have to be patient, since they are slow spreaders and require regular watering, but once established, provide a permanent evergreen covering.

FINALLY, if you really enjoy a blast of color, you just cannot ignore the iceplants (*Mesembryanthemums*). They do a marvelous job of covering fast, holding the soil, and adding that extravagant burst of color. You can take your choice of pink, purple, yellow, red, fuchsia, white and many hues in between. Of course, after the flowers die, you have to put up with the dead buds.

We have one rather large bank of shell-pink iceplant. In spring, when it is covered with flowers, it is like a quilt of pink satin. I'll never forget a sight in San Luis Rey Valley: a white house on a knoll with a green lawn in front, a black drive behind and a vertical bank behind the drive covered with blooming rosea iceplant. Green and white and brilliant lavender-pink. What a sight!

But so often when I see iceplant in the off-season, I feel like ringing the doorbell and telling the owner that if he would give it a good, deep watering every 3 or 4 weeks, it would have lovely green foliage all year round.

Aniela Esswein, a former teacher, gained her knowledge of ground covers by way of marriage. Her husband's Encinitas nursery, Southland Growers, specializes in ground cover plants.

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Funerals

Ground Covers . . .

How much nicer that would look than this half green, half brown stuff people pass off as bank cover. A good cutting back every year or two wouldn't hurt either.

The point about iceplant is: use it if you need color, but don't plant it simply because you can't think of anything else. Go ahead and try Baccharis, Lantana, Ceanothus, Asparagus, Lotus, Carissa, Rosemary . . . and there are more.

Just to round things up here remember . . .

For dry banks:

Baccharis pilularis
Rosmarinus forestieri
Ceanothus gloriosus
Ivy Geranium

For color:

Lantana sellowiana
Ivy geranium
Gazania uniflora leucocarpa
Gazania pavonia or *G. rigens*
Mesembryanthemum

Others:

Lotus
Honeysuckle
Asparagus sprengeri
Carissa grandiflora, 'Green Carpet' or
tuttlei
Hahn's Ivy
English Ivy
Algerian Ivy

Water deeply, trim back occasionally and mix 'em up with shrubs and trees.

50 YEARS AGO in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

December, 1912 — Surely in four-hundred acres [in Balboa Park] there can be an area where picking flowers is allowed. A touch-me-not garden is no garden at all, and again be it said a Park must be the People's garden.

December, 1912—There is plenty of evidence to support the theory that man is merely allowed to make a garden and blow himself out with pride in its possession just to accommodate its real owners, the birds and the bees, the lizards and frogs, and even the bugs and the slugs, just as many a man thinks he takes his dog for a walk when it is perfectly evident the dog is taking him.

Alfred D. Robinson, January, 1913 — The real California garden will grow out of an imagination that has been fired by the roll of our little hills, the height of our mountains, the great spaces of our valleys and always the glorious sunshine.

FANCY-LEAF GERANIUMS

By Thos. L. Hosmer

IF I could have but one fancy-leaved geranium, undoubtedly it would be Mrs. Cox. It has the brightest-colored leaves of any geranium in the world today. One has the feeling that its leaves are crimson, in spite of the fact that they contain irregular splashes of other colors.

Mrs. Cox is sold for its foliage, never for its pale pink single blooms; though they don't detract from the plant's beauty, they certainly do not add anything. It is described as a rather tall grower that handles quite easily. I can agree that it grows tall, having had it reach the height of 3 feet, but it certainly does not handle easily, either as cuttings or in pots, and it can easily be killed in the ground.

Its closest rival in color is the single-flowered Mrs. Pollock that Peter Grieve introduced in 1858. History does not seem to record whether Grieve also introduced the double-flowering variety, or if it was a later sport. There is so little difference between Mrs. Pollock and Mrs. Cox that the uninitiated cannot tell the difference. The main distinction is that Mrs. Pollock is a little heavier-lobed and the single flowers are orange-scarlet, whereas the flowers of Mrs. Cox are a light pink or salmon, depending upon soil and fertilizer. Pollock is a far easier plant to grow than Cox. The form of the bloom is the only difference between the single and the double-flowering Pollock.

Another fancy-leaf in big demand is Miss Burdette Coutts. It belongs to the Silver Tri-color group, whereas Cox and Pollock are Golden Tri-colors. Miss Coutts has silvery green leaves with a wide, pale ivory border. Its splashes of rose-red are not quite as bright as those in either Cox or Pollock. It is a smaller, slower-growing plant. Because of a tendency to fade out and become very light when grown in hot sun, it does best in a cool spot or shady location.

A far better fancy-leaf for the average person, because it is extremely sturdy and will grow almost anywhere, is Skies of Italy. There have been times in the author's gardens when its leaves have shown a more brilliant coloration than Cox, but this is far from the rule. It also differs from Cox in being easier to handle in every way. This was my first possession in colored-leaves and you can be assured it wears well.

Beyond these four, it's purely a matter of taste. You can choose among tri-colors and bi-colors, or bronzes, gold leaves or silver leaves. In his catalog, Holmes Miller usually lists from 30 to 35 varieties.

Personally, I would not feel that any collection, even a small one, could be complete without a plant each of Verona, Dwarf Gold Leaf, silver-leaved Mrs. Parker, Wilhelm Langguth, one with bronze leaves, and Happy Thought. These selections have been made over many years of trial, both in the open ground and in pots, of every variety offered by Holmes Miller and every other nationally-known mail-order retailer in the United States. To these Zonal colored-leaves in our collection we have added Mme Margot (Ivy), Variegated Prince Rupert (Scented), and Alpha (Dwarf).

The dwarf Alpha, one of the most striking fancy-leaves, can be included here because it makes a wonderful hanging basket, with its natural tendency to droop. A combination of its brilliant red flowers with dark blue trailing lobelia is a sight that no observer will forget for quite a while. There is an English version of this plant with a pale pink bloom, but after several years of growing them side by side, the decision was reached that Alpha was far better. Alpha is easy to grow and easy to propagate, whereas the English Harry Hanover seems to be somewhat difficult.

Verona, a beautiful specimen plant in anyone's garden, is really yellow rather than gold. Its leaves vary from yellow to yellow-green, and when a full-grown plant is topped with pale pink blooms, it is a sight to behold. In full sun, it is one mass of pale pink blooms and full yellow leaves from late spring to early fall. It is easy to grow and very easy to propagate.

The other representative of the gold class which should be in a fancy-leaf collection is Dwarf Gold Leaf. It is not a true dwarf, but rather a compact, short-jointed, small plant. Its yellow leaves are a darker shade than Verona's, and its single blooms are a brilliant scarlet. It will live all its life in a pot,

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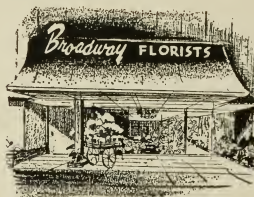
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yet develops nicely in the open ground.

In the silver-leaves one has considerable choice, but I selected Mrs. Parker because of the bloom, a beautiful light rose. Both Mrs. Parker and Wilhelm Langguth are free-flowering plants. Langguth's blooms are a clear vermillion.

As for a bronze number for your collection, you can stop with Alpha. If you want a larger specimen for growing in the ground, you have quite a selection, most of them with salmon or scarlet single blooms. The author has Rhoderich Dhu in his collection, but Prince Bismark would do just as well.

Happy Thought is in a class by itself. Each green leaf has a creamy yellow butterfly pattern in the center. Again the flower is insignificant, whether you have the crimson or the pink-flowering one. Do not buy the latter by preference; its pattern of growth is difficult.

THERE are dozens of other fancy-leaves. A common one that has been around since about 1880 is Distinction, which years ago was known as "One in a Ring." The leaves are strongly serrated with a narrow, dark zone toward the edge of the quite round leaves. It has single red flowers. Give it a little shade and not too much water and it will respond. Another rather intriguing fancy-leaf is Pink McMahon, a stronger grower than the other McMahons.

A newcomer, brought out by the Bodes in 1958 is Black Jubilee. In the author's lath house, its chocolate zone has at times been absolutely black.

Another one to look for is Crystal Palace Gem. Like Happy Thought, it carries a butterfly pattern on its leaves, but the pattern is green in a yellow-green leaf.

Medallion, a plant with yellow to yellow-green leaves with large red-brown blotches filling the center, is a recent addition to the lath house. It is a Holmes Miller addition to the bronze-leaved section of the fancy-leaves. Miller seldom praises his own introductions, but he says that Medallion is distinctly different from all other varieties.

The best way to learn about these fancy-leaved plants is to make out your check for \$4 to the International Geranium Society. Send it to me and I will see that you are enrolled as a member. If you still have questions, send them to me at Route No. 4 Box 99A, Vista, California, with a self-addressed envelope, and I will do my best to get the correct answers for you.

BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

Our Garden Friends the Bugs. By Allan W. Forbes. Exposition Press, N.Y., 1962. 190 pages. \$4.

This is such a personal book—in contradistinction to the many learned-sounding tomes in the gardener's field—that one feels drawn to the author and eager to know him better. He writes in the first person in an informal and delightful way, and the complete layman or even an interested older child would be drawn into the field of his knowledge and enthusiasm almost without conscious volition. This is not to say that Mr. Forbes is not a learned man in his field; he is, and practiced as well. There are 45 years of gardening behind him, and an even longer interest in biology. Now, at 75, he is the avid gardener of a plot just outside the city of Worcester, Massachusetts.

The book begins with the theme he is about to develop: "In general bugs do much more good than harm. It is much pleasanter to watch them . . . than to spread poison over friend and foe alike." He develops this thesis by explaining that bugs—all insects, that is, normally listed as harmful to plants—are really well behaved. What damage they do is slight compared with that of a single spraying (here we are reminded of Rachel Carson's controversial *Silent Spring*). There should be lots of bugs in a good garden, says Mr. Forbes, and the good ones will take care of the bad—at least to the extent of allowing very minor damage by the latter.

It is true that the author's affections are involved with unlikely subjects, and to prove his points he makes statements that sound odd indeed—or else Worcester, Mass. is very different from San Diego, Cal. For instance, of tomato worms he says cheerfully that the vines need pruning anyway, and the worms save him trouble by occasionally—only occasionally!—eating off some unwanted greenery. Of the grubs of predatory beetles he is equally tolerant: "If they do eat a few roots occasionally I doubt if it does any harm." I can't agree with him when

he says, "I have never seen any damage attributed to slugs that might not have been caused by bad cultural practices." Aphids he doesn't worry about (this comes closer to making sense), since their numbers and rate of increase are comparatively small, they live only a day, and at least 76 other and more beneficial creatures feed on them; if you use poison you will get the friends, too.

Mr. Forbes discusses a great many specific insects, and makes their stories completely fascinating, as in the amazing transformation of so many winged things: from egg to grub or larva to pupa to finished creature in flight. He believes in organic gardening, but he is not fanatical on the subject. He says: "A balanced supply of insect life in the soil is one means of preventing any one of them from developing into a pest."

Most of the last quarter of the book is involved with the more abstruse features of insect life, such things as the nature of instinct, with astonishing examples of its drive and strange adaptabilities. Mr. Forbes comes back to his own garden at the end, concluding that nature can be assisted in the matter of biological controls, a matter he has solved by keeping the "good" predators happy underground by the very simple means of composting and trenching.

The book is well illustrated with line drawings by Lili Rethi, and there is a list of books recommended by the author. (A.W.H.)

Simple, Practical Hybridising for Beginners. By D. Gourlay Thomas. St. Martin's Press, N.Y., 1962. 127 pages. \$3.95.

This book should open new doors for the adventurous amateur gardener. Hybridizing, generally thought of as a technique for experts, is open to all, according to this British author. He dispels timidity by citing a long list of well-known hybrids developed by amateurs. He emphasizes that the equipment and skills are few, but that patience, an immunity to failure, and stamina are what make a hybridizer.

A definite goal and plan must be set up, then plugged at and watched over until the goal is achieved. He rates the successful creation of a new and beautiful hybrid as one of the most thrilling satisfactions possible to man.

Once he has set the stage, he gives detailed and definite instructions on how to hybridize. Starting with the easiest and simplest of flowers, the sweet pea, he progresses through the stages of complications to the most difficult, the carnation.

Reviewed by Rosalie Garcia

Contemporary Flower Arrangement. Revised and enlarged. By Rae L. Goldson. Hearthsides Press, N.Y., 1962. 159 pages. \$4.95.

This is a handsome volume with a fine format. The chapters on design, color and texture are clear, with rules simply stated and less complicated than usual. There is excellent advice on the selection of containers, methods of stabilizing flower stems, and the importance of suiting home arrangements to the mood, style and proportions of their locations.

The author, alert to a wide variety of plant materials, is informative as to their names and sources. Dried arrangements are extensively stressed. Table settings are pleasantly informal but not very modern. A supplementary workbook about containers, stands and mechanics* gives extensive factual help, while encouraging imagination and ingenuity.

So much for the excellent text; the photographs are another story. In the beginning of her book Mrs. Goldson says: "The skeleton of the structure is vital and the voids are an essential part of the whole," but most of the illustrations belie her statement. Mass obstructs line and voids are more apparent in the silhouette than in the structure. There is a real feeling for color and texture in the pictures, but the foreground lines in fruit and dry arrangements are often stubby; materials of equal size, mounted on sticks, lack grace. Some of the accessories seem unnecessary or too important for their position.

One feels that Mrs. Goldson has updated her subject matter in this revised edition but has held over too many old illustrations. The text is recommended to students of flower arrangement, but they should follow that old adage: "Do as I say, not as I do."

Reviewed by Alice M. Clark

*The *Workbook of Containers, Stands and Mechanics*, also available as a separate book at \$2.50.

A Calendar of Care

• GARDEN CHORES

December

- Prepare planting holes for deciduous fruits and ornamental trees and shrubs. Lacking compost, you can use one of the composted fir barks at the rate of one sack to 200 square feet of area.

- Plant crocus, hyacinth, scilla, muscari, ranunculus and tulips. Any of these bulbs can be planted in pots and sunk into the flower beds. After bloom is gone, they can be removed to an inconspicuous part of the garden.

- Reduce wind resistance in top-heavy trees by removing growth that is crowded or poorly spaced. Use wire braces on weak frameworks.

- Last chance to dig glad corms. Corms produce better flowers if dug and held over the rainy season, then re-planted in the spring.

- Sow seed of mignonette for fragrance as well as a repellent for flies. Also plant seed of linaria, viscaria and nemesia.

- Tecate Cypress, Incense Cedar, Pinon Pine (*Pinus edulis*), and Mugho Pine make good living Christmas trees for the small yard. Brilliant-berried Cotoneasters, Pyracanthas and Hollies are at their best now. Use them to brighten the patio, porch or steps during the holidays; transplant later to the garden.

January

- Bare root planting starts in earnest this month. Ornamental shrubs and trees planted now will have the advantage of winter rains; faster growth will result next summer.

- Use a general clean-up spray,

dormant strength, on all ornamentals and fruit trees subject to insect pests and diseases. Choose an insecticide containing pyrethrin and Rotenone, chemicals that are harmless to pets and humans.

- Prune deciduous fruit trees and grapes now.

Robert H. Calvin

• ORCHIDS

WE have to start contending with dark, overcast winter days about now. Be especially careful about watering. Excess water in the potting mix can kill the roots of orchids, and water standing at the base of the plant or in the new growths can cause damping off and the eventual loss of next year's crop of pseudo-bulbs and bloom spikes. Water only in the morning on clear, bright days. You needn't worry about dehydration. If you check the

pot after a week or two of dull days, you will find that the compost is still surprisingly damp.

The continual war with pests continues. Be careful not to use an oil base insecticide, since the oil carrier is harmful to orchid plants. Most insecticides come in a wettable powder form that is preferred, but even this may spoil the flowers if it is allowed to remain on the petals.

It takes sun for a plant to use up fertilizer, so skip your weekly feeding if we have had many dark days. If the food is not taken up by the plant and more food is added, you reach an over-fertilized condition that causes root burn and damage to the plant.

By now you should know whether you will have flowers this coming spring. The bloom spikes will be appearing as dark, blunt knobs at the base of the new green bulbs. As the flower spikes start lengthening they will need protection. Sun, hitting the unopened buds, will darken the flowers with stripes or a reddish burn on the back of the petals. The spikes should be protected from the sun before the buds break from the sheath. Greens need heavy shade to retain a clear, green color; otherwise they will fade out to a muddy yellow. On the other hand, dark shades of brown and red need light, but not direct sun, for good, deep color. Provide moderate shade for other colors.

The flowers will need other protection as well. As mentioned before, care should be taken to keep insecticides from the petals. On dull, overcast days, any water that remains on the flowers also will leave its mark. The water itself does not do the damage, but it collects spore from the air, and that causes the actual spotting.

Along this same line is damage from rain. The rain alone doesn't harm the flowers, but it does pick up the accumulated dust and dirt from the lath or other overhead shade material and deposits it on the blooms. If your plants are portable it would be advisable to move them to a roofed area. If they are too large and heavy to move, or if they are planted in the ground, a tent arrangement will shade the flowers, and a fine mist spray will wash the dirt from the petals.

When the spikes start to appear, stake them with new bamboo plant stakes. Using old stakes again is playing a dangerous game, since diseases and spores can be transmitted from one plant to another. Some plants grow normally with an upright spike, others need to be encouraged to show

their flowers above the foliage. As the spikes lengthen they should be tied loosely to the stake and encouraged to grow upright. If you wait until the spikes are long before you start tying you are sure to run into difficulties. The flowers frequently will be upside down after staking. Also the stems are often hard and brittle and break easily. It would be a shame, after a year of waiting, to lose a spike before it blooms.

Betty Newkirk
SD County Orchid Society

• ROSES

WE trust that your rose garden is all ready for the bare root season which is practically upon us. If not, hurry hurry. Dig your new rose beds 28 to 30 inches deep. Remove some of the sub-soil and replace it with a quantity of organic humus material, soil sulphur (to combat alkalinity), bone meal and humisite (to inspire soil bacteria to activity). At this late date, wet and turn this material every day or two to mellow it. A reminder—should you be replacing single rose plants, be sure to use a couple of buckets of fresh soil in the hole.

At this time we are doing our utmost to create a semblance of dormancy in our rose gardens. The mid-October feeding was the last for this year. Let the weather dictate how much to water. Don't let the plants dry out, but do withhold water. Too, let some rose hips (seed pods) form on each bush. All of these things make for the dormancy which our mild climate denies our roses.

This near-dormancy leads to our yearly pruning. This all important job need not be a worrisome one. It involves removing spent canes cleanly at the bud union and cutting back the new ones to a good outside growth bud. This procedure will make for a vase-shaped plant. Should you have any fears, doubts or questions about pruning, let me invite and urge you to attend the rose pruning demonstration in the Balboa Park rose garden in January. A firm date will be announced in the daily papers. Another wonderful source of information on all phases of rose culture, including pruning, is an in-

Next page please

ROLAND HOYT*
RECOMMENDS

Harpullia arborea

WHEN seen in good fruit and well colored, *Harpullia arborea*, the Moreton Bay Tulip Wood, is an unforgettable sight. This rare evergreen tree from Queensland reaches up to 40 feet in height and as much across when well grown. It has dense, glossy-green foliage, each compound leaf consisting of four to five pairs of alternate, oblong leaflets up to 6 inches long, somewhat crimped and drooping.

The clusters of fruit begin to appear after the inconspicuous yellowish flowers, in hanging panicles, of August. Most plantmen and all the books describe these fruits as being 1½ inches long by 2 inches wide. This observer has not been so privileged: those seen locally have been smaller, of the size and character of twin cherries, siamese, closely joined as a unit. Local conditions, culture and season may explain the disparity in size. As the fruit ripens in late fall the 2-lobed case or capsule takes on orange tints deepening to the color of crushed strawberries. The fruit clusters make striking decorations and corsages.

Harpullia grows anywhere in the coastal belt or in the milder foothills, given a warm location and water in summer. It will stand several degrees of frost without injury. Wherever in these subtropical regions a combination of tempered wind and air-drainage for frost coincides with a deep, reasonably fertile soil, this tree should be freely used.

It has been planted in India and

*Member ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.



Harpullia arborea

Ceylon, and possibly in the Philippines, along avenues, primarily no doubt as a shade tree, which it is, but also in a class with the flowering trees because of the conspicuous fruiting. It is comparatively clean underfoot, since the very fine flowering parts drift off with a slight breeze, while the dry fruits leave no telltale stains and no great debris.

In San Diego, go to the corner where Ingleside Street concludes with Sunset Boulevard. Stop there and examine the two specimens of harpullia in the parking northwesterly along Sunset. A second treat to the eye and tree-appreciation comes with a glance across the boulevard where stand the two splendid specimens of Montezuma or Chapultepec Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*), probably the finest in Southern California, in front of the E. T. Guymon, Jr. home (see below).





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Calendar of Care . . .

expensive book, *How to Grow Roses*, by John Paul Howard. It is published by Sunset Books and is available at most nurseries and book shops.

Nettie B. Trott
SD Rose Society

• CAMELLIAS

TO FERTILIZE or not to fertilize (during the blooming season), that is the question.

While successful camellia growers and exhibitors agree on frequent watering, syringing to increase humidity, and wetting down garden walks to cool the area at blossom time, there is little agreement on winter fertilizing. A discernible trend favors fertilizing container-grown plants lightly, but withholding fertilizer from ground-grown plants.

Some of those who say "no" contend that camellias are dormant in winter. This view seems valid in zones where night temperatures generally drop below the frost point and range down to zero. These zones are in the fringe area for camellias and there is little disagreement on the wisdom of withholding fertilizers.

Most camellias are grown, however, in more temperate climates and are properly treated as evergreen subtropicals. As such there is no true dormancy. Here the winter phase of the life cycle is a period when vegetative growth is inhibited in favor of flowering. This change is induced by an interplay of plant-produced auxins and hormones and such seasonal factors as low light intensity, the short day, and lower soil temperature.

Plant activity continues, but at a subdued pace. Flower buds swell, reach maturity, and unfold into breath-taking blooms. Some root growth also takes place.

Flower tissue is mostly water, but summer-stored sugars and starches contribute the fabric, color, sheen, and petal substance. Aside from water, all of the essentials are available in reasonable supply as a prelude to bud initiation in late summer.

Optimum bloom size is the product of an abundant supply of food per bloom, adequate soil moisture, a humid atmosphere to reduce evaporation stress as the flower unfolds, and tem-

perature low enough for slow flower development. Disbudding is an established practice as a means toward affording each bud a more generous share of the available food. An unknown factor is the role played by winter-synthesized plant food. Quite a few exhibitors believe that this is an important plus in the production of prize-winning blooms.

It is apparent, of course, that only a nominal quantity of nutrients is required to support the slower pace of winter plant activity. In humus-rich soil the natural breakdown of vegetative material should release sufficient soluble nutrients. Leaching may upset this natural balance in the case of container-grown plants, thus justifying light winter fertilizing.

Some ground-grown camellias may also benefit from a winter nutrient boost. This could be especially true in the case of long-established plants where the soil has been depleted of much of its humus content.

As a guide to estimating soil richness without conducting soil tests, note the plant growth of the past summer. Where adequate growth has been made, foliage color and texture is normal, and a good bud set obtained, it is reasonable to assume that adequate nutrients are available to the plant. Late season growth would further substantiate this evaluation. Where foliage color is good, but less than normal growth was made this year, and no recent or late summer fertilizing was done, it would seem wise to fertilize now.

Liquid-soluble fertilizers are preferred at this season for their quick availability. Organics such as cottonseed meal are slow to break down and become available to plants in cool weather. The application per plant should be at about one-third to one-half the rate recommended for spring and summer use. Some camellia enthusiasts prefer a nitrogen-free fertilizer in winter, but others use a balanced product or one with a nominal amount of nitrogen.

Where leaf burn or chlorotic foliage is found, do not fertilize. Tip burn or leaf scorch is generally the product of an excess of soluble salts in the soil. Where water percolates well through the soil, excess salts may be leached by several heavy waterings. Otherwise try one of the soil penetrants and correctives available at most nurseries. Leaf damage is almost always accompanied by root damage. If extensive, recovery is likely to be slow. Withhold fertilizer until normal growth is resumed.

Chlorosis, as distinguished from the virus-induced mottled foliage characteristic of some plants with variegated blossoms, should be treated with stabilized iron or one of the soil correctives available at nurseries.

Summarizing culture tips for this season: Fertilize lightly where indicated. Maintain adequate soil moisture. Syringe the plants frequently to wash away dust (since dew might cause it to stain blossoms) and to maintain a cool, humid atmosphere conducive to the slow development of prize-winning blooms.

Clive N. Pillsbury
SD Camellia Society

• BEGONIAS

WE San Diegans always hope for a wet winter, since rain water means the leaching of salts from the soil. The shade gardener is especially concerned because most of the plants in sheltered gardens are either neutral or acid-loving.

Begonias prefer a neutral soil, but are tolerant of other types. Plant collectors have found begonias growing on limestone outcroppings in their native habitat. These begonias vary from the fibrous rooted through the various rhizomatous types.

For current care, take a close look at rhizomatous begonias to see that they have ample drainage. If they are growing in the ground, see that run-off is adequate, so that they will not stand in water. Though begonias are moisture-loving plants, they are not bog plants.

Many persons in San Diego grow their cane stemmed begonias (*B. coccinea*) directly in the ground. Whether container grown or otherwise, see that they have ample drainage. This is especially important over the winter months. The ever popular Beef Steak Begonia (*B. erythrophylla*), the Star Begonia (*B. 'Fischer's Ricinifolia'*) and the various rex begonias must have this same special attention at this time.

Here in the Southland begonias given weakened (diluted) feedings respond to regrowth faster than those purposely neglected. Therefore, if the plants are growing in a location where they are not apt to suffer damage from frost, give them such a feeding once a month until April. Then the strength may be increased. If begonia rhizomes are bare of leaves, due to dormancy or

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their rest period, do not give them any fertilizer. Only a growing plant can assimilate food.

Dorothy S. Behrends
American Begonia Society

● DAHLIAS

THERE are three important activities for gardeners at this time of year: dreaming, catalog looking, soil preparation.

For dahlia growers, the dreaming began in early summer when the blooming season started. How could better blooms have been obtained? Maybe better varieties would mean greater rewards, and more blue ribbons at the shows?

The catalogs hold the answer to the dreams; now is the time to request them. They usually arrive about the first of the year, and the gardener can study them until (and after) planting time.

Dahlia catalogs are essential to dahlia growing. The ones from the specialists are best, but most standard seed and bulb catalogs available by mail or at nurseries offer a selection of dahlia roots. To get listings of the specialists, study the ads in garden magazines or ask any dahlia society member for addresses. Several such specialists in California rank among the top from all over the world. And best of these is the Comstock Dahlia Gardens of Solana Beach.

Roots should be ordered so that they will be on hand for planting from mid-March on.

Good dahlias can be grown in the average garden with average preparation and care. The better the preparation and care, the better the flowers.

Better preparation means getting the dahlia bed ready now. Whether the dream planting will be one or a few plants, or dozens or more, the bed should be situated so that it gets several hours of sun a day. Morning sun is best. Most varieties thrive in full sun, but appreciate the long shadows of afternoon.

Better preparation means turning the bed now to a depth of 18 inches or so, mixing in liberal quantities of humus, and allowing it to lie fallow in a rough, unraked condition for several weeks. Any kind of humus ma-

terial is good; compost, peat moss, and steer manure are best. Whatever is used, it should be put on liberally: compost to the depth of 2 or 3 inches; peat, 3 to 5, and steer, 5 to 7 inches.

To get maximum benefit as the layer of humus is spaded in with the turning of the soil, trenching is recommended. This means removing all the soil at one end of the garden to make a trench as wide as the spade and as deep as the soil is to be turned, then turn the soil into the trench—trench after trench—until the bed is turned completely. Fill the last trench with the soil removed from the first.

In addition to humus, heavy soil will be helped if gypsum is spread and turned in at the same time. Use enough gypsum to make the top of the bed white.

Two or three weeks before planting, the bed should be raked smooth and turned again. Then, better preparation means spading in bone meal, again spread until the top of the soil is white. Adding superphosphate in addition to the bone meal (or instead) will make the bed better.

Some growers like to add bone meal to the soil at the time of planting—a cup to each hill—but it should be remembered that the bone meal becomes available to the plant only after about 90 days. Applying it ahead of time, and at planting time as well, will supply continuing nutrition.

The more the dahlia bed is turned before planting, the better will be the chances for good flowers.

Larry Sisk

SD County Dahlia Society

● FUCHSIAS

DEVOTED gardeners from colder climes, even novices and dabblers, delight in the year-round gardening possibilities of our San Diego climate. However, with only pleasant rains in winter instead of snow and ice, the mild temperatures often seem to rob some plants and trees of needed resting periods, unless controlled by the grower.

Some fuchsias may bloom through the Christmas season or even longer, if feeding and watering is not reduced in late autumn. This is especially true of certain varieties, and of plants that have rested earlier in the summer, and have been properly pruned at that time instead of waiting until spring. So in-

telligent choice of varieties for the effects in design, color, and blooming time you wish, as well as a definite garden plan for the coming year, may well be made during winter garden leisure. Browsing through outstanding nurseries and private gardens and talking to their owners, besides being pleasant relaxation, will usually help greatly in organizing your own garden ideas and plans. The many fine nurserymen, hybridizers, and hobbyists who are devoted almost entirely to fuchsias will talk interestingly and helpfully about them and are happy for the opportunity.

In speaking of winter care, most authorities on fuchsias for the country at large recommend mulching for protection of plants in the ground (especially in cold areas), watering only as necessary, and not wasting fertilizer on plants during the rest periods. Generally, pruning seems to be advised in spring, after all danger of killing frost is past. But here in Southern California there appears now a growing number of advocates of pruning in the fall, as the plants tend to go into dormancy. They claim less die-back, with the sap going down instead of up, than in spring, and much less danger of damage from one of the frosts which may come in late spring.

Plants pruned at the end of an early blooming season in summer may need to be pruned and shaped again in the spring. But the interesting advantages and possibilities in fall pruning make it well worth trying. As in methods of feeding and watering and pest control, it is well for you to stand by the ways that seem to prove best for you and your situation, rather than changing to every new idea without careful trial.

In all cases, pruning should follow the recognized rules to attain and then maintain the proper shape according to type, and to promote the plant's best development and blooming potential. After first choosing the bush, tree, basket, background, border, or espalier forms which are suited to the garden plan you have decided upon, your pruning, pinching, and shaping must always tend toward the accepted outlines of each type.

Fuchsias will stand a lot of cutting at the proper times, with more benefit than injury. Since bloom is only on new growth, and it is stimulated by proper pruning, don't be afraid to cut back to the second or third node of new growth, if necessary, for the right shape or effect.

Most basket types should be cut back almost to the edge of the container,

and all weak, straggly, or cross growth removed in all types, as in any proper pruning operation. Pinch to maintain conformation as the plant grows. Any good pruning time may afford a fine opportunity to select strong, healthy cuttings for new propagation of your favorite varieties.

Do not forget to check regularly for moisture around fuchsia plants (especially those in containers) even during our season of winter showers. Varying humidity often endangers our plants before we are aware of it. And watch for some of the stunning new varieties to own and enjoy. You'll be glad you did.

Morrison W. Doty
SD Fuchsia Society

Carnations - A Beautiful Challenge

GROWING carnations is a challenge for the home gardener who desires their magnificent display in his garden.

The carnation, native to Southern Europe, was mentioned by Theophrastus in his "History of Plants," but it was not until the 16th century that it began to be looked upon with favor. The perpetual flowering type used for commercial purposes today was originated by Dalmais in France in 1840, and introduced in the United States in 1856. Grown commercially in large quantities throughout the United States, the carnation is an important crop in San Diego County.

Carnations come in an array of colors in solid shades and variegations that make them very adaptable for garden use. Rooted cuttings of the popular red, white, pink, candy-striped, and tangerine varieties, all of which grow well in San Diego County, may be purchased from local nurseries.

Before you plant your rooted cuttings, special care should be taken in preparing the soil. Carnations grow best in a moist, well drained, sandy loam soil. Addition of superphosphate and dolomite lime worked into the soil before planting is suggested.

Place the cuttings as shallowly as possible to help prevent soil diseases from attacking the stem of the plant. Water the cuttings after planting; then check periodically until they are established. Once they are growing, water-

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ing one to two times a week will usually suffice.

Proper fertilizing and insect control are musts in producing rewarding flowers. A balanced fertilizer such as 4-12-4 or 10-10-10 applied monthly will offer sufficient nutrition to produce healthy, vigorous plants. Carnations are bothered by the common insects—aphids, flower thrip, and red spider—all of which require spraying, especially in spring and summer.

Disbudding is important to the gardener desiring maximum flower size. Several flower buds form on each carnation stem; the largest or terminal bud is reserved and all others removed as soon as they can easily be broken out. Remove them by bending the bud at right angles to the stem and leaf and giving it a slight twist.

The plants should be staked or tied up in some manner to achieve straight stems and keep them looking neat. Garden supply stores offer a ready-made carnation stake consisting of a single piece of wire ending in a loop at the top. You can fashion something similar from wire coat hangers.

By following the above procedures, you can produce carnations which will give you satisfaction and bring many compliments from your neighbors and friends.

George Niedens

Advice on Pruning

To develop sturdy trunks on young shade trees, leafy twigs should cover the trunk down to the ground. This advice comes from Richard W. Harris, Chairman, U. C. Department of Landscape Horticulture, Davis, who adds, "A shade tree should outlive the man who plants it—but it won't unless correct pruning of the young tree gives it a strong, long-lasting framework of main branches."

Harris points out that there are two main methods of pruning—"heading back" and "thinning out."

"Heading back" means to cut off part of a branch. The cut may be anywhere from just above the base to just below the tip. It may be above a bud or a lateral twig, or it may leave a stub. The effect is to concentrate vigorous growth just below the cut.

"Thinning out" means to cut branches or twigs completely off, flush with the branch from which they arise, or to cut them back to a large lateral branch. This type of pruning does not leave such obvious scars.

In general, pruning should be avoided for the first three years after planting.

Flower Facts and Fancies

FLOWERS existed long before there were people to enjoy them. Roses, for instance, have been blooming in North America for at least 32 million years. But it took the human race to make things really go to seed—gardens were planted, new flowers bred, and some fascinating floral symbolism and superstitions took root.

Thousands of years ago, in Egypt, gardening was almost a religious cult. Temples were built on mounds and on the sides of these were planted sacred groves. Home gardens, with flower beds and many kinds of herbs, also abounded. These were watered by an ingenious irrigation system, and no garden was without its pool.

The Romans were literally knee-deep in roses; not only were they grown everywhere, but floors of palaces were often strewn with rose petals many inches deep. For their gardens, they favored geometric designs, and bushes trimmed to resemble mythical beasts like the chimera, part lion, part goat and part serpent.

Tier upon tier of platform terraces, built upon arches and reaching great heights, colorful plants and flowers overhanging their sides, water lifted to the top to run down in cascades, nightingales "planted" in trees to make music—these were the fabulous Hanging Gardens of Babylon, created by Nebuchadnezzar in 600 B.C., and acclaimed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

In more recent times, every nation has had its own gardening "personality." Because space is at a premium in Japan, gardeners there use dwarfed trees and artistic bridges to lend an illusion of space to small areas. China has contributed so many flowers to horticulture — chrysanthemums, peonies, Oriental magnolias—that it is sometimes called "the Mother of Gar-

dens." French-style gardens reach an extreme of formality, even the branches of large trees being trimmed and shaped to a certain pattern. Americans brought their own style of gardening, a big, informal, wide-open-spaces approach.

Garden flowers have been more than objects of beauty through the ages; many people have used them as medicines. In Greece, rose petals were used to cure the bite of mad dogs; the Romans were sure that a rose petal floated in a wine cup would prevent drunkenness. To this day, some people consume rose hips, which contain more than 20 times the vitamin C found in oranges.

Want to induce sleep . . . cure a headache . . . soothe anger . . . or comfort a broken heart? Wear a wreath of violets, as did the ancient Greeks. Forget-me-nots in folk medicine are not only a sight for sore eyes, but a cure for them—and steel tempered in the juice of these flowers was once thought to be capable of cutting stone without being dulled.

Long before "Say it with flowers" became a popular advertising slogan, friends and sweethearts were doing just that. Have you sent or received yellow roses lately? The frantic message: jealousy! Camellias tell a girl she's "beautiful but cold;" buttercups signify "homeliness."

Daffodils say "welcome," honey-suckle bespeaks devotion, and tulips moan of unrequited love. Want to tell someone he or she is magnanimous? Send magnolias; if you esteem his honesty, make it marigolds. Red roses say "love," white roses mean "worthy of love," but jasmine, alas! says "we're just friends." Iris says "have faith in me;" heather, "I am lonely," and chrysanthemum, "still hoping."

Certain flowers have been given additional meaning by historical events. Violets, symbol of shyness, became associated with the anything-but-shy conqueror of Europe, Napoleon. Banished to Elba in 1814, he told his friends: "I will return with the violets!" His followers, adopting the violet as their secret sign of loyalty, wore violet-colored rings. When Napoleon reentered France on March 30, 1815, he was greeted with showers of violets.

Even in our own day, we speak of a "rosy" future, a "flowery" speech, call praises "bouquets." Our ultimate compliment for a well-bred, well-educated person is to call him "cultivated."

Even now, 32 million years after the first rose and 6,000 years after the first garden, the human race is still happily going to seed.



*Crassula
perforata*

CRASSULA

By Cleaves Hardin

Drawings by Dorothy M. Landon

IN THIS day of carefree living, the *Crassula* is sure to reign supreme when a plant of great adaptability and beauty is needed. Although the genus contains more than two hundred species, with a great variety of growth habits and forms, it can be divided into two general groups: one of good-sized shrubs with visible branching stems, and the other of small, low-growing plants with closely packed leaves and non-apparent stems.

The largest and perhaps best known species, *Crassula argentea*, the Jade Plant, has rubbery leaves of bright green, and dainty pink flowers in winter. It can be used in numerous ways. From a shaped specimen in a decorative pot in a corner where nothing else will fit, to a hedge that will screen a patio, its use is limited only by one's imagination. Equally as beautiful is the variegated form, the Tricolor Jade, its leaves veined with pink and margined with cream. Another in the same group is *C. arborescens*. Its silvery green leaves, dotted and margined with red, are larger and heavier in texture.

A most interesting variety that can be used either as a background plant or kept small in dish gardens or planters is *C. tetragona*, the Midget Pine. It looks so much like a pine tree that one can use it in table arrangements as an accent or even decorate it with tiny baubles during the holidays.

The brightest plant in the patio during the summer is *C. falcata*. Its silvery leaves are twisted like airplane propellers, and the brilliant plumes of scarlet flowers towering above have given it the nickname of Paint Brush. One could look a long time before finding a more spectacular plant that asks so little attention.

Another fine potted specimen could be *C. perforata*, popularly called "String of Buttons." Opposing bright green leaves edged with red are literally strung on the stem in a manner reminiscent of the long-ago Chinese money. It is very useful for filling in at the base of a potted plant with a long bare stem.

Among the low-growing species, one of the most unusual is *C. hemisphaerica*, or the Silver Dollar. A small, perfectly round plant with its overlapping leaves piled one on top of the other, it is very attractive and can be used most effectively in an Oriental planting.

One must not overlook the lovely hanging varieties either. For a colorful pocket in an out-of-traffic location, *C. lycopodioides*, in its various shades of green and silvery gray, is very beautiful in its mossy resemblance. It prefers shade, good soil and little handling, but in a short time will fill a pocket to reward you for its care.

Last but not least we must remember *C. lactea* and *C. multicaeva* for their cheery winter and early spring blooms. They are adaptable as basket plants or ground covers.

The list could go on and on, but one gets the idea that for an all-around, all-year plant, the *Crassula* just can't be overlooked.



*Crassula
lycopodioides*

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STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946, AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 Stat. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION OF CALIFORNIA GARDEN, published bi-monthly at San Diego, California, for December, 1962.

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George A. La Pointe, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of September, 1962.

Thos. L. Crist, Notary Public.

Potpourri

... people, places, products in the news

• Mission Beautification

The grounds at the entrance to San Diego's Old Mission — Mission San Diego Alcala — will be restored and beautified next year by the North Park Business Club. At its anniversary program each year, the club recognizes two people, one each from past and present, who have made San Diego history. This year's honorees are Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California missions, and Graydon Hoffman, senior vice president of Bank of America. The mission project will be dedicated to them.

Project Chairman Roy E. Parker has enlisted the cooperation of the San Diego Chapter, California Association of Nurserymen, which has designed the improvements and will donate plants and supervise the installation. Adobe walls will be used to form a raised lookout area with a view westward down Mission Valley. The planting plan emphasizes native trees and shrubs.

Donations of materials, labor and money will be required to carry out the project, Mr. Parker indicated. Contributions may be sent to the San Diego Historical Shrine Foundation, Whaley House, 2482 San Diego Avenue. The Foundation will act as treasurer for the project.

• Awards

Roland S. Hoyt, San Diego landscape architect, received the Honor Award of the California Council of Landscape Architects in October. The award was given for his "outstanding contribution to landscape architecture through his professional practice and published works." Mr. Hoyt's book, *A Checklist of Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, is a standard reference work for landscape architects, nurserymen, and serious home gardeners.

Miss Pauline des Granges, assistant director of the San Diego Park and Recreation Department, is the first San Diegan to receive the Fellow Award of the American Recreation Society. The award was presented at the 44th annual National Recreation Congress in Philadelphia in October. Miss des Granges was cited for her contributions to recreation programs on the local, state and national levels.

• Lights Tour No. 3

Rolling into its third year, the SDFA "Christmas Lights Bus Tour" will again give San Diegans a chance to enjoy the city's outstanding decorations from the comfort of a guided bus. On Thursday, December 20, buses will begin loading at the Zoo parking lot at 7 p.m. and will leave promptly at 7:30.

Tickets are \$1.50 each. Reservations may be made with the chairman: Mrs. L. N. Hart, 4525 Natalie Dr., S.D. 15 (phone AT 4-3289), and Mrs. A. G. Wenzel, 5055 Vivera Dr., La Mesa (phone HO 6-3549). Mail orders should be sent to either of the above addresses.

• Historic Landscaping

The San Diego Floral Association will sponsor the landscaping of the grounds at historic Whaley House in Old Town. Records in the possession of the San Diego Historical Society, which operates the recently restored building as a museum, will make possible an accurate approximation of the original planting. Roland S. Hoyt, ASLA, is project chairman.

• New Men's Club

The new Men's Garden Club of San Diego County has adopted "Friendship through Gardening," the motto of the Men's Garden Club of America, as one of its objectives. The local group, formed in September, expects to include members with a wide range of gardening interests. It is affiliated with the national men's group and with the San Diego Floral Association.

Other aims of the club, which will meet monthly, are to encourage civic beautification, to encourage youth education through an interest in horticulture, to conserve natural resources, and to assist in promoting and developing a horticultural center for the combined garden clubs of San Diego County.

Regular membership will be confined to amateurs who participate actively in gardening. Professionals may become associate members.

The club's first officers are A. R. Blackburn, president; James Kirk, vice president; Everett Henderson, secretary; and Bill Dickinson, treasurer.



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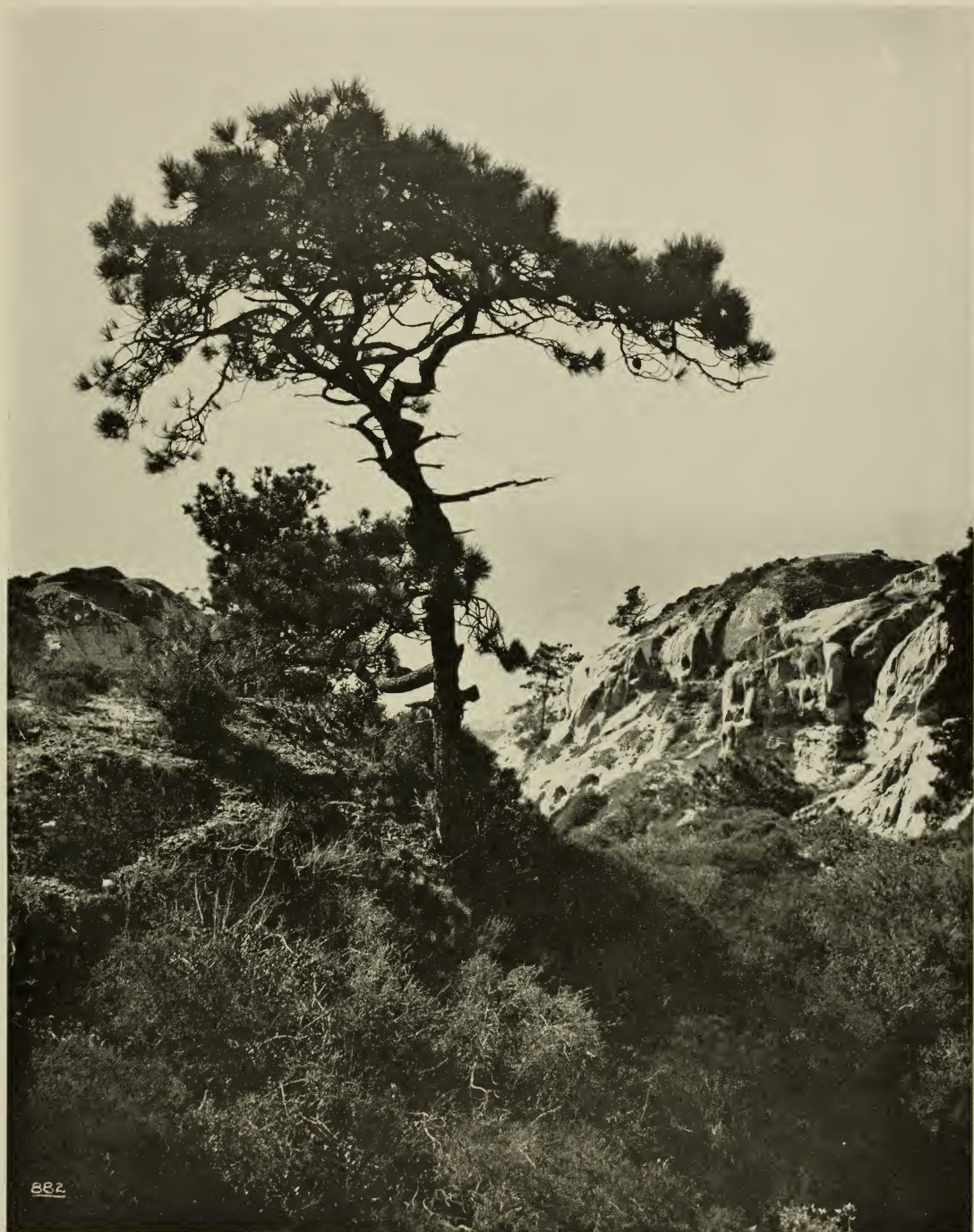
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